

JORDAN TIMES

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردين تاينز يومية سياسية تصدر بالعمامة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الرأي»

Economic summit in June

LONDON, June 1 (AFP). — A U.S. hosted nations' economic summit will probably take place in Puerto Rico at the end of June, the House announced today.

Deputy press secretary John Carlson yesterday said exploratory talks were underway to hold a summit involving the six countries which participated in the Rambouillet summit in France last year, plus Canada. The six were Britain, France, Japan, the United States and West Germany.

June 1, Number 183

AMMAN, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 1976 — JAMADI AL THANI 4, 1396

Price: 50 Fils

Development conference committees hold meetings

Amman, (JT). — His Royal Highness Prince Hassan, Chairman of the Jordan Development Conference, participated in the meeting of the Economic Committee of the Development Conference Tuesday morning that discussed the exploitation of local resources, inflationary pressures, and the economy and implementation of the five-year plan.

The committee had followed up on the five-year plan and the economic committee of the development conference here Tuesday.



His Highness Crown Prince Hassan seen making his comments to the economic committee of the development conference here Tuesday. (JNA photo).

Delegates comments concentrated on the need to expand training, vocational education, and women's education, and increasing the women's role in the economy.

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Headlocked on E. Mediterranean aid package

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Little progress evident as SALT negotiations resume

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Kosygin arrives for Syria visit

DAMASCUS, June 1 (Agencies). — Soviet Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin today arrived here from Baghdad for a four-day visit to Syria.

Syrian force moves into Lebanon

BEIRUT, JUNE 1, (R). — Syrian tanks moved into Lebanon along the main Damascus to Beirut highway today and fanned out across the eastern plain reportedly disarming leftists and their Palestinian allies.



TANK IN A FIELD — This photo shows what the Associated Press identifies as a Syrian tank in a cornfield in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley Tuesday. It is said to be part of a force sent in to help lift the siege on several rightist villages in the Akkar region of Lebanon. (AP wirephoto).

The Soviet Prime Minister said upon arrival that he and Syrian leaders would hold talks to strengthen and develop relations in political, economic and military fields.

Mr. Kosygin was accompanied by one of the Kremlin's most hard-headed trouble-shooters, First Deputy Foreign Minister Vasil Kuznetsov.

A Syrian officer told Reuters the troops had occupied left-wing positions and moved into the rightist and Christian stronghold of Zahle, north of the main highway and almost half way from the border to Beirut.

Mr. Ayoubi praised Soviet-Syrian relations, which he said were strong and strategic.

Later the Soviet Prime Minister visited the Martyrs' Tomb, accompanied by the Syrian Deputy Premier for Economic Affairs Mr. Mohammad Haydar, where he placed a wreath.

The Palestinian news agency Wafa put the armoured column at brigade strength, normally 3,000 to 4,000 men, and the rightwing Phalangist radio said the Syrians had brought with them 200 tanks.

In a related development Iraq and the Soviet Union said today that Israel had created an explosive situation in the Middle East, and that a just peace required the return of all the Arab territories it had occupied, the official Iraqi News Agency reported.

The villages had been blockaded and shelled since last Saturday, according to Agence France Presse.

(Continued on page 6)

U.K., Iceland reach interim agreement on cod war issue

OSLO, June 1 (AFP). — Britain and Iceland today reached an interim six-month agreement aimed at settling the "cod war."

A special list of trawlers is to be drawn up from which the 24 will be picked.

The agreement, reached in talks that started here yesterday, limits the number of British trawlers allowed inside the 200-mile economic zone proclaimed by Iceland to an average of 24 trawlers a day.

British Foreign Secretary Anthony Crosland said at a news conference that diplomatic relations with Iceland would be re-established "within two days."

British trawlers will not be permitted to fish closer than 20 miles from the Icelandic coastal baseline.

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COD WARRIOR — British Foreign Secretary Anthony Crosland with reporters in Oslo Tuesday before he met with the Icelandic foreign minister to discuss the cod war situation. (AP wirephoto).

A bloody May forces Rhodesians to face up to war

SALISBURY, June 1, (R). — The bloodiest month of Rhodesia's three-year war drew to a close yesterday, leaving white Rhodesians to take stock of an increasingly precarious position.

They are leaving because of the raised tempo of the war and the resultant hardships of military call-up, higher taxes and future uncertainties.

Unconfirmed reports today said guerrilla activity has increased in the Chiweshe area, about 60 miles north of the capital, which has been calm for more than 18 months.

The death toll for May stood at 231. Black guerrilla forces now number at least 1,500 and have brought the war almost to the doorstep of Salisbury itself.

There are now at least 1,500 guerrillas operating within Rhodesia, and several thousand more poised in Mozambique ready to join in.

Guerrilla units have also hit vital rail targets in the south, near the South African border, and close to the Botswana border in the west.

At the same time, whites are emigrating at a rate unexceeded since the "great exodus" which followed the white minority government's seizure of independence from Britain in November, 1965.

But a major new front to the north could impose a mighty strain on Rhodesia's security forces, already stretched in coping with the Mozambique-based attack from the northeast and east.

Official reports meanwhile showed that the African population, not the whites, continues to bear the brunt of the war. Nearly 400 black civilians have died since the war started in December, 1972, and this may have set new records for black civilians deaths.

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Refreshing spirit

The compromise consensus agreement worked out at the UNCTAD conference in Nairobi this week is better than nothing, if not very much more than nothing. As all compromise solutions must do, this one pleases nobody completely and alienates nobody completely. As a charge for the world's developed and developing nations to go forth and work out the details of an international commodities sales system, the Nairobi agreement will not in itself light flames of passion in this direction. And the narrow defeat of Mr. Kissinger's international resources bank proposal shows how fluid indeed the situation was at Nairobi, and how fragile is the compromise agreement that has emerged from the month-long session there.

While the specifics of the UNCTAD compromise may little dazzle nor long mesmerize the world, the spirit of the agreement is worthy of some applause. There was not a total breakdown at Nairobi, as there was when the north-south dialogue preparatory talks initially fizzled out in Paris last April. There is now a consensus agreement among the nations of the world to continue talking about this ephemeral commodities programme, and, more specifically, to hold a negotiating conference before March 1977 to discuss the creation of a common fund to back up the impending commodity agreements. While there is not yet total agreement on the common fund — and serious doubts from some of the leading industrial states whose cooperation is crucial to the fund idea — there is broad agreement that one should press ahead with talks on the fund and related issues. And while the industrial nations have not agreed to the developing nations' call for price indexing between commodities and manufactured goods, this matter has not been buried either. It has been essentially repackaged in that special brand of international diplomatic language that means anything one wants it to mean. This, again, is the living face of compromise.

It remains to be seen where one goes from here. The UNCTAD meeting will certainly help matters at the north-south dialogue in Paris, where a similar spirit of compromise and cooperation has emerged during the past six months. The timing of the OPEC decision to hold oil prices steady for another six months is also conducive to agreement on the broader framework of new international economic relationships. The oil producers have effectively taken a price cut when one measures the real purchasing power of their income in relation to international inflation and the ever rising prices of industrial exports from the developed states. This will probably loom as the one step backwards before the two steps forwards.

All this is indicative of a more positive attitude by all to the near plethora of international meetings and conferences being held to discuss some aspect of trade and economic relations. If the specific agreements have not yet emerged, this is because the specific points to be agreed upon are of monumental complexity and importance, and thus not conducive to speedy and cosmetic agreements. What is heartening today — as opposed to the situation a year ago — is the prevailing willingness to seek compromise solutions and consensus agreements. If this means that each party gives in a bit on some points, so be it. It is highly likely, in this respect, that we will shortly hear little more about indexing proposals because these will be dropped in return for some munificence on the part of the industrial powers on the question of debt rescheduling for Third World nations.

It is difficult to see the pages of history turn in front of one's eyes, but all this is part of that vague, amorphous, cumbersome and complex process by which we are all producing our "new international economic order."

The novelty of it all is refreshing.

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Central Bank approves representative offices legislation

AMMAN. — The Central Bank board of administration Monday endorsed the draft law for licensing and controlling the activities of bank representative offices to be opened here.

According to the draft law, banks will be authorized to open offices here, whose main function will be to represent and manage the bank's interests in Jordan without having to perform regular

banking operations such as opening current accounts, accepting deposits or other credit operations.

The opening of bank representative offices will help make Amman an important financial centre in the region and attract investments for development projects.

Arab Writers Federation delegation arrives today

AMMAN. — A delegation from the Arab Writers Federation arrived here Tuesday afternoon for a five-day visit at the invitation of the Ministry of Culture and Information and the Jordanian Writers Society designed to foster relations between the two writers organizations.

During its stay here, the delegation will also participate in the first Jordanian literary week which the Jordanian Writers Society has organized.

The Ministry of Culture and Information will open the week's events today 6 p.m., at the Society's office in Jabal Luwaidah, Ibrahim Touqan Street.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Once again, the Jordanian newspapers Tuesday commented on Jordan's Development Conference in the light of His Majesty King Hussein's and His Highness Crown Prince Hassan's speeches at the opening of the meeting Monday morning.

Al Rai says that, as was expected, the launching of the Five Year Development Plan was a big national festival, and a special Jordanian demonstration that stirred up in the participating Arab and foreign delegations the feeling that development in our country is not merely a "plan of action" for the coming five years, but a national aspiration, a method for the betterment of life and a conviction that the making of a brilliant future does not just come out of the blue... King Hussein in his speech, the paper continued, has ably spoken about peace and development as against armament and war. H.M. warned that Israel's obduracy and intransigence are an obstacle to the dreams and aspirations of all people in the Middle East. "Zionist propensities towards aggression that compels the area to concentrate on armament instead of development amounts to a declaration of war on every Arab child and adult, on every Arab school and hospital and on every civilised goal our people were seeking to achieve for their progeny," Al Rai concludes.

Al Dustour says that, in his speech, King Hussein explained the "philosophy of development" as being the means for real strength representing the ability to build up a new life for one's self and for others as well... There is a great difference between strength acquired by prosperity and progress and strength relying on destructive weapons for aggression and domination. Therefore, the King hit the point when he pointed out that the Israeli aggressive role in hindering peace in the area was a contravention of development, because peace and development are two integrated elements.

Al Dustour also noticed that, in his speech, Prince Hassan focused on Jordan's universal outlook on the food problem, which is closely linked with socio-economic development — a view inspired by contemporary scientific facts.

Al Shaab says the speeches by the heads of delegations at the opening of the conference came in the form of a decoration bestowed on Jordan on this historic day, on which it opens a new stage in its confident march on the road of development and construction. The speeches, the paper adds, were testimony of Jordan's ability to forge balanced coordination between its limited resources and the essentials of a modern and civilised life, within the framework of well-studied planning and sound scientific programming. Jordan's development accomplishments were the more deservedly important when we remember the obstacles and challenges involved. But "where there is a will, there is a way," the paper says.

The three main Syrian dailies welcomed the Soviet Prime Minister Alexi Kosygin's visit to Damascus Tuesday. They looked at the visit as a significant expression of profound friendship and a genuine desire on the part of the Soviet Union to promote relations with Syria for the mutual benefit

King Hussein receives Numeiri envoy

AMMAN. — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday afternoon received at the Royal Hashemite Court the Sudanese ambassador to Egypt Ahmad Salah Bukhari, who is here in the capacity of President Numeiri's special envoy, and Colonel Abu Al Kassem Yussuf Adlan. Mr. Bukhari delivered a message from President Numeiri to his Majesty.

The Sudanese envoy had arrived here Monday evening from Damascus.

Jordan to discuss joint Arab ventures, at AEUC meet

AMMAN. — The Minister of Industry and Commerce Dr. Rajai Masher will head an official delegation to attend the meetings of the Arab Economic Unity Council due to start on Saturday at Arab League headquarters in Cairo.

General topics to be discussed by the conferees consist of setting up joint Arab ventures in the fields of agriculture, commerce, industry, tourism and mining. These ventures once established will form a solid basis on which Arab economic unity could be built.

The conference will discuss in particular the establishment of four Arab joint ventures, in the area of Arab agriculture and food production, tourism, setting up a joint authority for all Arab ports and industrial investment.

The ministers will also present their proposals on the formation of four companies to undertake these ventures and decide the share of each member country in the capital of the four companies. They will also decide on the location of the headquarters of the companies.

The Jordanian delegation includes the director of economic cooperation at the ministry of industry and commerce Mohammad Saidkaf, and Hani Khammash from the department of economic cooperation, Jordan's permanent representative to the Arab Economic

Prince Hassan, Saudi, Iranian delegates visit RS

AMMAN. — H.R.H. Crown Prince Hassan, accompanied by the Saudi minister of Planning Hisham Al Nather and Iranian Development Minister Majid Majidi, currently here for the Jordanian development conference, Tuesday visited the Royal Scientific Society (RSS). They were received on their arrival by its Director General Dr. Is-haq Al Farhan, who briefed his guests on the Society's activities.

In a press statement later in the day, Mr. Al Nather said that the

Saudi government is interested in the five-year development plan and will finance some of its projects. Discussions to that effect he said, took place between Prince Hassan and Saudi officials during his recent visit to Saudi Arabia. Prince Hassan, he added, also looked over the Saudi 1976 year development plan which is to cost \$142 billion.

Art exhibit opens

AMMAN. — Alla the Royal Jordanian Airlines is sponsoring an art exhibition by Syrian artist Mosbah Bobbili which opened Tuesday under the patronage of Minister of Culture and Information Salah Abu Zeid at the Art Gallery, First Circle, Ja Amman.

The exhibit will continue until June 6.

Secretary Needed

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Lebanese civil war racts all sorts

May 31, (R). — Ten French volunteers have been killed in the Christian ranks in Lebanon's civil war since last April, the newspaper L'Aurore said on arrival from Cyprus.

The students said they were admitted into the Phalange by M. Bechir Gemayel, son of Phalange leader Pierre Gemayel, after they landed by boat in Junieh near Beirut on arrival from Cyprus.

They said they were in action on the night of their arrival "defending" a mosque opposite what they were told were the offices of the newspaper L'Orient-Le Jour in Beirut. They said they abandoned the mosque on the night of April 30 and it was attacked by Phalangist artillery following their retreat.

Later, serving as an autonomous group, they were stationed in the Beirut port area. Three of the group were slightly injured during their Lebanese stay.

Israeli defence ministry denies involvement in S. Africa, Ethiopia

JERUSALEM, May 31, (R). — The defence ministry tonight denied allegations by a leftist member of parliament that hundreds of Israeli soldiers were serving as instructors in the South African army.

Mrs Marcia Friedman, representing the small Independent Socialist Movement, charged in the Knesset that Israeli soldiers of varying ranks were instructing the South Africans and had participated in training exercises.

She said her information came from a "reliable source" and demanded that Defence Minister Shimon Peres confirm or deny it.

A defence ministry spokesman said the "ministry does not maintain military advisers in foreign countries."

He added that the "same statement applies to news reports from Nairobi last week that an Israeli military mission was training Ethiopian army units in counter-insurgency tactics."

Israel.



VISITORS — The caption for this Associated Press wirephoto identified these vehicles as Syrian artillery guns and personnel carriers on the Masna-Chitara road inside Lebanon Tuesday. These units were said to enter Lebanon to help stop a "massacre" of two rightist villages in Lebanon's Akkar region and to lift the leftist siege of Zahle. (AP wirephoto).

As champion of dispossessed

U.S. disturbed at emerging role of ILO

GENEVA, May 31 (AFP). — The International Labour Organisation, from which the United States has threatened to withdraw if it continues its politicization, will hold two international conferences here this week that are almost certain to involve violent political clashes.

The 61st International Labour Conference, opening Wednesday and running until June 23, will be attended by government, management and union delegates from 131 countries. They are to draw up international "norms" to be incorporated in national legislation on pollution of places of work.

Delegates will also discuss the employment of medical personnel at working places, but will take no action on that issue until next year.

On Friday, the first World Conference on Employment will begin, scheduled to continue until June 17. It, too, will include government, management and union

representatives, who will discuss the division of labour on a worldwide scale, the migration of workers and the role of multinational companies.

The international conference of the ILO a United Nations agency, last year admitted the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) with observer status to the ILO as a whole.

But last Saturday, the ILO's administrative council refused by a vote of 24 to 23 to grant the PLO observer status at the World Conference on Employment.

After the vote in favour of the PLO last year, the representative of the American government left the conference hall for several hours, and the U.S. Union Delegate, Boycotted the end of the conference. Later the U.S. Congress delayed for a long time the payment of the U.S. contribution to the ILO budget of 20 million dollars, which represents a fourth of the group's total budget.

Most important, the American government announced 'oo November 6 that it would leave the organisation in 1977 if the ILO did not end its "growing politicization" and its allegedly "selective attitude" to the choice of countries it denounced for failure to observe internationally recognised social regulations.

That was the first time that the U.S. officially threatened to withdraw from an organisation belonging to the U.N. system.

The ILO constitution was drafted by a committee led by American labour union leader Samuel Gompers, and the first international labour conference met in Washington in 1919.

Most observers predict that this week's special conference will be the scene of stormy debates on South Africa, which left the ILO in 1966, Chile and Israel and the continuing question of admitting the PLO to the meeting.

Euro-parliamentarians discuss Med. agronomy centre with Israel

WEST JERUSALEM, June 1, (AFP). — Establishment of an advanced centre for Mediterranean agronomy was discussed here Monday at the annual meeting of the Council of Europe Agricultural Commission.

Twenty-five parliamentarians from 13 countries are taking part in the week-long event, held outside Europe for the first time. John Farr, of the United Kingdom, the Commission's acting chairman, opened the session in the Knesset (parliament) hall.

Mr. Farr gave the floor to Ruseven Eiland, Director-General of Israel's Ministry of Agriculture, who spoke on his country's agronomy.

Japan's Exim Bank to extend \$500m to USSR

TOKYO, June 1, (AFP). — The governmental export-import bank of Japan (Exim Bank) will most likely extend a 500-million-dollar loan to the Soviet Union for its chloroprene rubber, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and fertilizer projects, it is learned.

According to government sources, the finance and international trade and industry ministries will approve the loan soon.

Under the 10th five-year development programme, the Soviet Union plans to import a chloroprene rubber manufacturing plant worth about 30,000 million yen (100 million dollars) from Kobe Steel, Ltd., a major Japanese steelmaker, industry sources said.

They declared that a consortium of Japanese and American steel manufacturers, led by Kobe Steel, was likely to win a contract to export an LPG plant to the Soviet Union.

They said a fertilizer plant would be shipped to the Soviet Union by the Mitsui group, one of the biggest Japanese business groups.

The Exim Bank loan will be used to buy this equipment. A credit agreement will be signed here in mid-June, the sources added.

Iran signs steel mill contract with British Steel

TEHRAN, May 31, (AFP). — The President of the National Iranian Steel Industries Company (NISIC), Mohammed Reza Amir, has signed a big contract regarding a new steel mill in this country with Sir Sidney Finister, Chairman of the British Steel Corporation (BSC). It was learned officially here.

The orders abroad are worth nearly 1,000 million dollars. The mill will have an annual capacity of 1,200,000 tons. It will be installed at Isfahan, central Iran, and will turn out steel beams and structures.

The contract was signed in Tehran on Sunday.

The BSC will manage the work. It will also supply the technology, train staff and help in getting the project, which is due to begin operations in 1980. Tenders will be put out on the international market this summer.

The main part of the equipment could be shared between the British, the Japanese, the Americans and the West Germans.

Khashoggi brothers eye investments in Taiwan

TAIPEI, May 31 (AFP). — Three Saudi Arabian multimillionaire brothers, who own the largest financing group in kingdom, will fly here on Wednesday for a three-day business visit.

Coming with a party of 20 are Adnan Khashoggi, Chairman of the Triad Holdings Corporation, and his brothers Samir and Mohammad Othman.

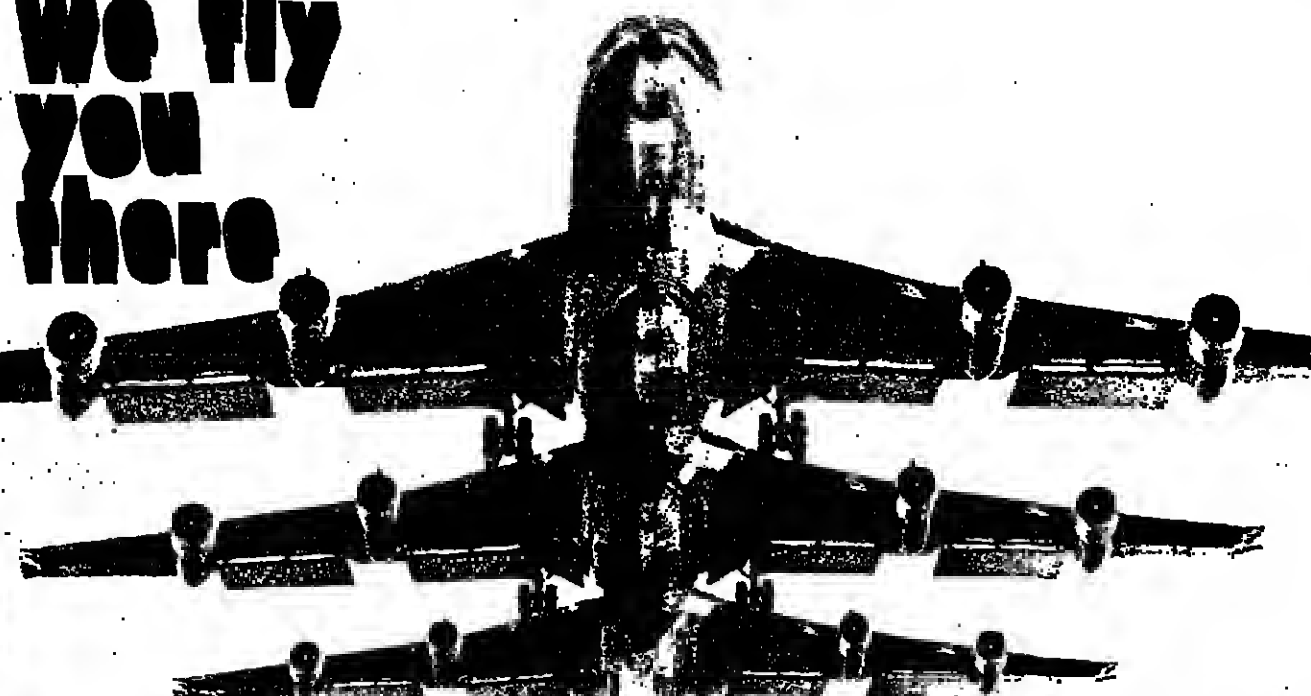
The group is currently touring the Far East with stops in Hong Kong, Seoul and Manila.

With a personal fortune estimated at over 100 million U.S. dollars, Mr. Khashoggi is known in the Middle East as "Mr. Fix It". The activities of his Triad Holdings Corporation span the business globe.

During their stay here, the brother tycoons will meet with Nationalist Chinese government officials will meet business executives and study the investment environment in the country.

They are scheduled to leave on Saturday.

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Swissair Middle East Gets Together



On May 21 and 22, Swissair's Marketing, Operations and Finance Managers from the Middle East worked together while cruising from Piraeus to Hydra (Greece), to discuss the company's situation and expectations in the Middle East. The meeting was attended by delegates from Head Office.

South Korea's flourishing economy

South Korea is accredited as being one of the fastest developing countries in the world today. As often cited by many foreigners, Korea's economic growth is a near miracle. It is quite impressive that despite the total destruction wrought during the North-South Korean War and ceaseless threat from the North, Korea is achieving the spectacular industrialization and fast economic growth.

The economy of Korea, which had been in trouble due to the universal recession and inflation in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis, has been recovering from the business slow-down since mid 1973.

The recovery is attributable largely to the improving economies of advanced countries and a series of successful economic programmes geared to overcome the recession. Today, the Korean economy is experiencing export increases, brisk industrial production, rising employment and price stability.

Industrial production increased 12.4 per cent during the first half of 1975 over the corresponding period of the previous year, 11.9 per cent in October and again 20 per cent as of the end of 1975 over a year before.

As for exports, the first half of 1975 saw exports decrease by 2.6 per cent from the same period of 1974. In the latter half of 1975, however, exports increased markedly to 4,853 million dollars as of the end of November, an amount showing a 13.3 per cent increase over the same time in the previous year. On the other hand, imports amounted to 5,035 million dollars as of the end of November or 0.1 per cent less than the corresponding period of 1974.

In addition, signs of economic recovery have been seen in some other fields, also. Reflecting the recovering business situation, the

business indicator for last October recorded 1.5 for the first time since August 1974, showing that the nation's economy has entered the stage of stability.

The gross national product (GNP), which grew meagerly in the first half of 1975, recorded fast expansion. The GNP grew 3.1 per cent during the first half of last year and 8.9 per cent in the third quarter. Fast GNP growth has been forecast for the fourth quarter. Even allowing for the sluggish growth in the first half, the GNP growth for the year 1975 is expected to surpass the targeted 7 per cent.

This economic performance is conspicuously successful compared with other countries. In fact, Korea is considered the only country in Asia that registered a substantial increase in both exports and growth in 1975.

A brighter prospect has been forecast for the economy of Korea in 1976. This optimism is based partly on the fact that the economies of the United States and Japan, Korea's major economic partners, have been recovering markedly lately. This, along with the country's active economic advancement to Mideast countries is expected to affect Korea's economy favourably.

All in all, the economy of Korea will be on a solid path as it has successfully tied over difficulties and has already begun to recover amidst steady stability and growth.

South Korea's exports to Mideast Korea, whose exports to the Mideast in 1975 reached \$432 million (target was \$ 220 million) is stepping up its economic cooperation with oil-producing Mideast countries by promoting joint ventures in polyester resin, steel pipe, paint, aluminum sash and other industrial sectors.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry recently disclosed Korea's merchandise exports to the Middle East during the first eight months of the year 1975 reached \$22,711,000 compared with the \$192,749,000 registered during the same period of 1974.

The number of Korean contractors which maintain branch offices in the Mideastern countries increased from 25 in 1974 to 56 during the first eight months of 1975.

According to the ministry concerned, airports will be expanded by 1978 to handle some 40 tons of air cargo daily. The extension of airports is designed largely to airlift more effectively the increasing volume of outgoing cargo. In this connection, new air routes to the Middle East and South European regions will be explored to help support Korea's economic advance in these regions.

To boost surface cargo transportation, container ships will operate to the North American and European regions. For this purpose the Korea Shipping Corporation will import three container ships at a cost of \$117 million by 1977.

The ministry concerned also to step up its sales campaign in 13 major countries, including Mideast nations, by dispatching sales missions.

Korea's Technology and Industriousness in Mid-East

Today the Middle East has emerged as a rich potential region for the advancement of Korea's economy. Oil brings hundreds of million dollars a day to the oil-producing countries in the area on the strength of which Mideastern countries are implementing vigorous development programmes.

In the course of implementing development programmes in nearly all fields such as industry, agriculture, housing, roads, and harbours the Mideastern countries have abundant funds accruing from their oil proceeds. Still, they encounter difficulties caused by shortages of technology and manpower plus inefficient social overhead capital.

Showing a striking contrast, Korea has outstanding technology and abundant manpower, but faces a shortage of capital. These conditions have prompted a rapid expansion of mutual trade based on the pattern of mutual-compensatory cooperation.

Especially Korea has seen its national capacity build up drastically thanks to successful implementation of a series of economic development plans, providing itself with advanced technology and experience. This has enabled Korea to advance to Mideastern countries to meet their needs.

Koreans are today seen everywhere in the Middle East taking big parts in economic programmes. Thousands of Korean technicians and artisans work around the clock in Jordan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain etc. Once King Faisal was as moved at the willingness with which Korean workers did night duties which other nationals detested that he personally saw to it that more projects be accorded to Koreans.

Along with this manpower advancement, commodity exports to Mideast countries have been growing steadily. At virtually every port of the Middle East Area, freighters can be seen unloading Korea-made goods.

Taus Korea's advancement to the Middle East can be classified into the three fields of construction, trade and technical manpower. The sector which has undergone the fastest expansion is construction.

The total amount of contracts awarded to Korean contractors by Mideast countries stood at 24 million dollars in the seven years from 1966 to 1973. In 1974 alone, however, contracts reached 85 million dollars, some 2.7 times as much as the seven-year total. In this year (1975), some 600 million dollars worth of contracts had already been won by Korean contractors as of the end of November, an amount representing a seven-times increase over last year. Still, as more contracts are being negotiated, additional projects are expected to be awarded to Korean firms by the end of the year.

As Korean contractors' advancement into Mideast countries is so brisk, Korean construction workers can be seen everywhere in the Middle East. The Dong-A Construction Co., one of Korea's leading contractors, has been participating in the construction of the like of the port of Jubail, Saudi Arabia, and also in the erection of a road between Urayirah and Hanidh, Saudi Arabia. Another contractor, Shin-won Development Co., is working on the expansion of the port of Koramsha, Iran. Besides, the Hyundai Construction Co. and a number of other Korean contractors have been building oil refineries, gas plants, and irrigation and agricultural development programmes.

It is also noteworthy that Chosuk Construction Co. Ltd., Nam Kwang Construction Co. Ltd., and Sampoong Construction Co. Ltd. are participating in Jordanian projects such as East Ghor Irrigation project, Amman Sewerage Work and other building constructions.

The active advancement of Korean contractors in the Middle East was the result of recognition of Koreans' ability and qualifications compared with other countries' contractors who have swarmed into Mideast countries after their wealth.

Further expanded advancement of Korean contractors to the Middle East area is expected in the days ahead, on the strength of the rich experience gained in their previous services in the Southeast Asian and Pacific regions.

As for technical manpower, Korea has been supplying skilled manpower in large numbers to Mideast countries which have been suffering much from scarcities of skilled workers. It was learned that Iran alone would require some 720,000 technicians and skilled workers for the success-

ful implementation of its economic development programmes.

To meet such an acute need for skilled workers, Korea has sent 1,537 technicians to Iran, 2,115 to Saudi Arabia and many more to other Mideast countries as of the end of November. The number of Korean workers in the Middle East is expected to increase further in the future as Mideast countries ask for more Korean technicians.

In this way, Korea has advanced into the Middle East remarkably, and the pace of such advancement is likely to increase dramatically in the days ahead. To back up such a likelihood, the First Korea-Iranian Ministerial Conference held in Seoul recently agreed on extensive economic cooperation between the two countries.

Korean industries and technical manpower which have extensively advanced into the Middle East based on relations of mutually-compensatory cooperation, will no doubt contribute much to the development of the Middle East area.

Korean Aviation, World-Wide

Korean Airlines, now 13 years old, became well known as an international air carrier. During recent years KAL achieved significant progress in many areas. KAL acquired the freighter version of Boeing's 747 and became the first to operate the jumbo all-cargo freighter over the transpacific route.

Under joint operation agreements with Air France, KAL initiated a cargo service over the polar route in 1973 and later via the southern route between Seoul and Paris. KAL's passenger lines now fly direct to and from Paris with only one stop at Anchorage.

To expand its Southeast Asia operations including the Seoul-Singapore line, a direct Seoul-Manila passenger service was inaugurated in July 1975 with four flights per week.

To keep pace with increasing economic relations between Korea and Mideast countries, two direct flights per week between Seoul and Bahrain were inaugurated in May 1976 and sales offices are now operating in Amman, Tehran and Bahrain.

As of 1 May, 1976, KAL's fleet included three B-747Bs, three DC-10 Series 30s, four B-707/320Cs, two B-720s, three B-727s, two DC-8s in addition to 6 conventional aircraft and four Airbus 300B4s. In 1976, KAL will add two additional A-300Bs to its fleet.

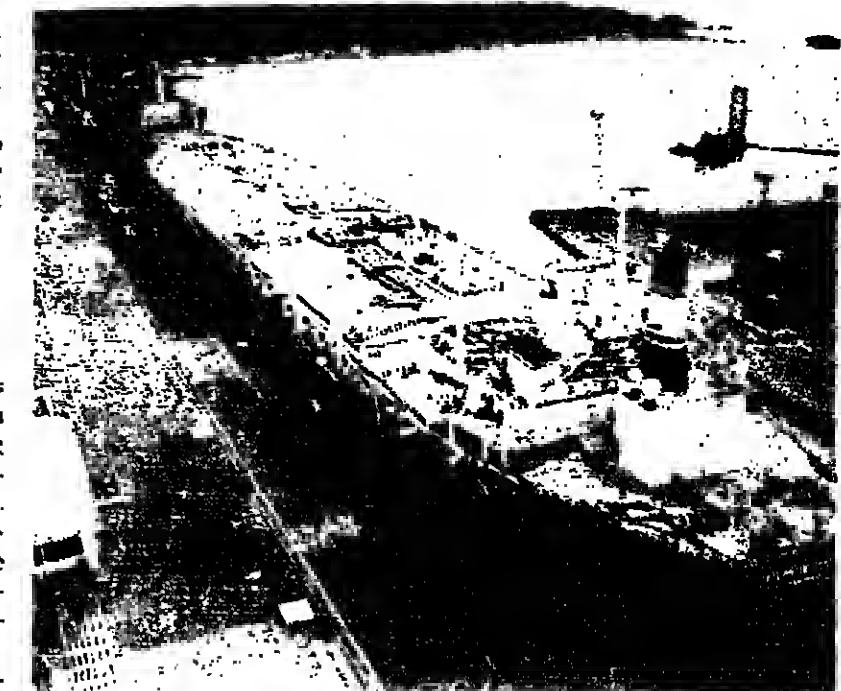
Korea - Jordan Relationship

The advancement of the relationship between South Korea and Jordan is not exceptional. Since the diplomatic recognition of each other in 1962, Jordan has been one of the most friendly countries, supporting South Korea's cause on the re-unification of Korea.

Trade volumes between the two countries are increasing remarkably these days and a trade cooperation agreement recently concluded in Seoul between the Chamber of Commerce of Jordan and its Korean counterpart, which hopefully, will be one of momentum for further promotion

of bilateral business cooperation (from a sales office of Korea and mutual interests of both countries).

Further to the above, the Korean Government is exerting her construction companies are unselfishly to strengthen the technical cooperation with the Jordanian Government. In 1975 the Direct Construction Co., is participating in executing the Society together with director Jordan Valley Development Plan, visited Korea upon the invitation of Nam Kwang Construction Co. of the Korea Technological Institute and an expert of the Jordan Ministry of Agriculture. Several building projects have been received a professional training in Korea for several months. During 1976 two more agricultural experts are expected to undertake the joint partnership with a Jordanian agricultural training in the damian businessman, for trade exchange fields for the period of 1 month while "Avia Tourist" see months each upon the spot (Travel Agent) in Amman is now sorship of the Korean Government offering good services to KAL.



The christening ceremony for 260,000 ton super oil tankers at Korean shipbuilding yard.

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Construction Exports by Area

(unit: \$1,000)

Area	1966-74	1975	1976	Korean Workers (As of March 31)
Middle East	112,872	751,210	89,196	6,023
S.E. Asia	445,409	80,661	22,302	1,143
Pacific	116,668	5,435	3,722	269
Africa	143	15,062	-	52
Latin America	8,151	566	-	145
Others	2,039	-	-	-
Total	693,282	832,334	115,220	7,632

Note: The 1976 amount which covers the first four months does not include \$1,136,513,000 for which contracts will be formally signed soon.

KOREAN COMPANIES IN JORDAN

CHO SUK CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD.

AMMAN BRANCH
P.O. Box 1616
Tel: 24954
Telex JO 1327
BRANCH OFFICE

President: Hae Won Park

Representative: Sang Hyun Park

NAM KWANG CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD.

AMMAN BRANCH
P.O. Box 357
Tel: 38862
Telex NAMCO JO 1464
BRANCH OFFICE

President: Jung H. Bae

Representative: Young Hwan Park

SAM POONG CONSTRUCTION & IND. CO. LTD.

AMMAN BRANCH
P.O. Box 6397
Tel: 64011
BRANCH OFFICE

President: Lee Joon

Representative: Hyun Young Park

KOREA PRODUCTS EXHIBITION COMPANY (Export & Import)

MAIN OFFICE
P.O. Box 6397
Tel: 64011/62422
Telex 1478 HUPAK JO

President: Hung Un Pak

Future space research will find other civilisations

VA, California (CSM) — radio probes for signs of life in outer space are by the newly installed of the U.S. national unmanned probes to the planets.

ision Laboratory (JPL) ifornia Institute of Tech-jects spaceship searches in civilisations — or eve, interstellar, radio-te-ystems, such as "Cyclo-

clops concept, as propo-U.S. space agency study ould involve searching many hundreds of light intentional transmissio-ns. If such beacons vered, the system could and carry out communi-ith the senders.

ray says such an elect-space probe could cost \$10 billion. He advoca-"modest" and localised alien radio signals wh- could be initiated at a few million dollars

such a search for living elsewhere a worthwhile pursuit?

etary scientist says it sonable to assume that alone.

nothing we can iden-logy, biology or astro-makes development of th unique," he says. cieties likely pass thro- we're in."

adds that it is logi-"intelligent" societies to communicate with evidence of the exist-terrestrial life wo-most exciting single hat could be made by the 20th century," he

JPL chief said that arent diminished inter-U.S.-Soviet space race reduced federal funds ion, unmanned probes n and planets should or scientific reasons as enhance, "national

w, lunar exploration ndstill. And the only -sponsored planetary id for the launch pad Jupiter-Saturn, a fly-hts, Paul Green, has two new on- for count down next

year, due to reach Jupiter in 1979, and Saturn in 1981.

Extension of this mission to Uranus is possible, reports Dr. Murray.

However, already under way and racing out towards Mars are Viking twin "lander" explorers. Programmed to search for micro-scoping life, the first craft will descend to the planet July 4, the second in September.

Dr. Murray stresses that planetary exploration is enlarging man's understanding about his own earth — providing key information about its origin, atmosphere, and magnetic field.

But aside from pure science, the planetary scholar says such

probes tend to bolster public morale and national pride.

"Americans feel that this is a good thing to do. People were confused by Vietnam and the energy crisis. But this is one we can win. It's unreservedly good," Dr. Murray explains.

As for costs, the JPL director says future unmanned junkets to the moon and planets—follow-ups to Ranger, Lunar Orbiter and Surveyor missions—would carry a price tag of about \$100 million (Apollo manned lunar probes cost about \$27 billion.)

Among Dr. Murray's future lunar and planetary priorities are exploration of the far side of the

moon to correlate findings with Apollo data; an orbiter to probe climatic variations on the polar regions of Mars; a mission to map out the magnetic field of Mercury; and a high-resolution, radar-equipped craft to electronically pierce the heavy atmospheric shroud around Venus and determine whether the planet's surface has earth-like features.

As a space-oriented laboratory, JPL can make significant contributions towards solving domestic problems, such as the energy crunch.

It already devotes \$20 million annually — 10 per cent of its budget — to such projects.

Outdoor drama hits U.S. Bicentennial peak

NEW YORK, (AP). — Outdoor drama spectacles in record number are scheduled this summer from coast to coast in the United States.

Aimed at the holiday family trade, the al fresco events range from folksy history to classic drama, from religious pageant to boisterous romp.

The Institute of Outdoor Drama at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, which keeps tabs on America's grassroots theatre, reports 54 productions in preparation in 25 states. Thirteen shows are new, the largest seasonal increase ever.

"A Bicentennial surge is overtaking the major plays," reports Mark R. Summer, the institute's director. "We expect this may be the best year in spite of politics, economics and environmental problems. Reservations are up everywhere."

Although costs have increased, the previous \$2-\$5 ticket scale is being generally held, thanks to intensified fund-raising and improved management methods.

Among the new shows is the first to be directed by a woman, "Dust on Her Petticoats" at Tulsa, Oklahoma is being staged by Dr. Hazel Hall of Columbus, Georgia.

The play is one of three new ones penned by Kermit Hunter, one of the most prolific providers of scripts about American regional history. Ten Hunter pieces will be on the boards.

The dean of outdoor playwrights, Paul Green, has two new ones, for a current display total of

nine. Green wrote the first of this kind of historic special, "The Lost Colony," which will be in its 38th season at Manteo, North Carolina. Another of his most famous scripts, "The Common Glory," is on for a 28th season at Williamsburg, Virginia.

Performed mostly by college actors for spectators in holiday mood, the shows rarely come up to usual professional thespic standards. Nobody, however, any

longer doubts the popular appeal and economic impact of what supporters regard as America's most original dramatic form. Summer-long attendance is expected to be well over the two-million mark.

Forty of the 54 listed presentations centre on legends or events associated with the area where they are performed, eight have religious themes, three are Shakespearean festivals and another three offer musical variety or light comedy.

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Bruce C. Murray: the search for extraterrestrial life is on, and must benefit every one of us.

Solar-powered lighthouses guide the ships in

CARYSFORT LIGHT, FLORIDA (AP). — The sunshine that by day warms mariners playing the Florida Straits soon will aid them at night, powering lights that warm them of 200 miles of coral reefs between Miami and Key West.

Atop this 110-foot light seven miles into the Atlantic off Key Largo, the U.S. Coast Guard is refining a system that converts sunlight into electricity—fueling a lamp mariners can see for 15 miles.

"The is about as simple a system as we're going to come by," said George Matrigali, a civilian Coast Guard engineer who built the solar unit from similar devices used on offshore oil rigs.

While local Coast Guard officials say the project is not unique—similar devices power small buoys off Massachusetts and the West Coast—it is part of a growing trend to use natural energy in Coast Guard operations.

Matrigali's system gathers sunlight through a bank of solar collection cells that transform the energy into electricity. The electric charge then is funneled into batteries which, in turn, power the lamp.

Officials say the ultimate goals of the system are to save money and to increase the reliability of the reef lights, six towering beacons which point the way for ships steaming the passage between the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico.

The lights were built in the 19th century to mark the shallow, vividly colourful reefs along the

Keys. The resident operators who once tended the lights are gone now, but marine life still gathers around them.

Sometime this summer, 50 small buoys in Florida waters will be equipped with solar units. nd officials say there are plans to build a complete Coast Guard base in Fort Myers which will use solar energy for everything from heating water to running the air-conditioners.

But sun power is not the only natural energy with which the Coast Guard is experimenting. Matrigali devised a wind-powered system for the reef light on Fowey Rocks, off Miami.

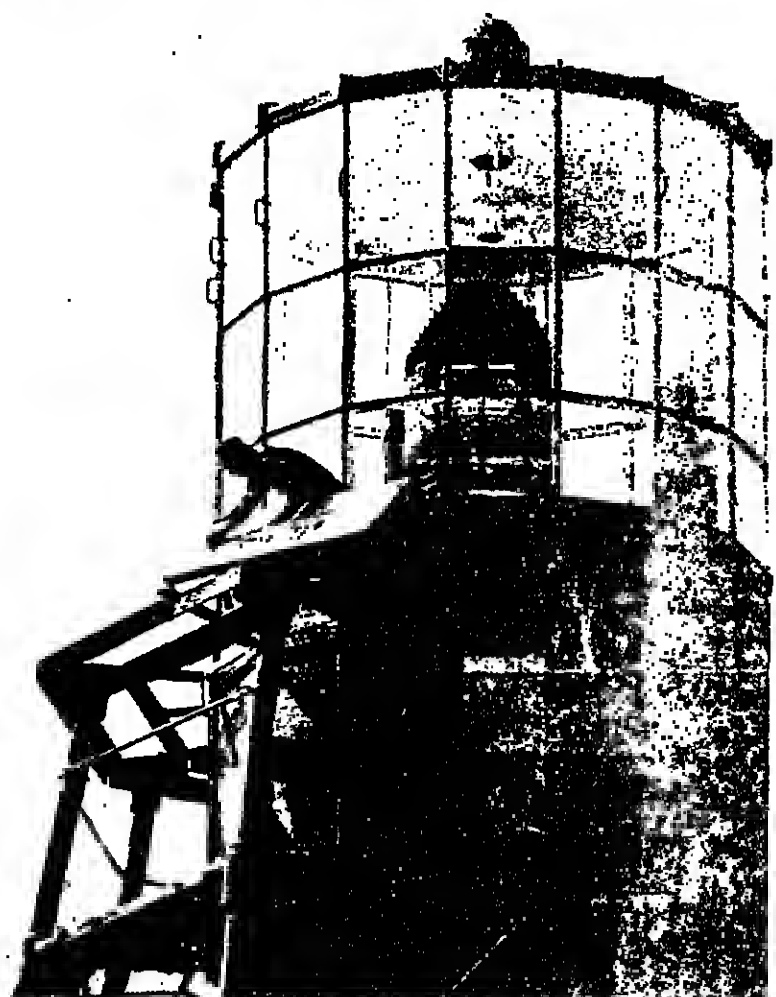
The godfather of the solar and wind systems is Lt. Cmdr. John R. Wells, head of the civil engi-

neering branch in Miami for the Coast Guard district stretching from Charleston, South Carolina, to Florida.

"We plan to put solar panels on our major lights this summer because it appears to be a simpler, longer-lasting installation with less maintenance requirements and less trouble," he said.

Wells said the solar unit costs about \$3,000 for sunlight collector cells, long-life nickel-cadmium batteries, a regulator to control the flow of electricity from the cells into the batteries and a car headlight-sized lamp which is magnified by a giant lens.

The batteries are the key to the system and its expected economic life of 15 to 20 years.



SOLAR POWERED — George Matrigali works on the solar panel that powers the 110-foot Carysfort Reef lighthouse in the Florida Straits. The Coast Guard plans to use solar panels to power major lights this summer.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1. Rope fiber
5. Tarradiddle
8. Settle
11. Winglike
12. Maori fern rootstock
13. Mother of Irish gods
14. Island
15. Applies oneself
17. Corel formation
18. Pitch
19. Feminine name

DOWN
21. Abominate
25. Coastlines
28. Cables
29. Clothes moth
30. Essences
31. Verily
32. Cheat
33. Scotch colliery
36. Peruvian Indian
40. Depart from life
43. Long period of time
44. Pulpy fruit
45. Shelter
46. Back of the neck

SOLUTION OF YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

47. Simpleton
48. Vogue
49. Worry
3. Virtile
4. Choice
5. Brawl
6. Lot
7. Small parts in a play
8. Buchanan
9. In addition
10. Empty talk; slang
11. Abyssinians
12. Teachers' group
13. Branch of the sea
14. Cha
15. S-shaped curve
16. As it is written; musical
17. Promem
18. Unit
19. Contorted
20. In record
21. Even part
22. Confused
23. Small
24. Priest's garment
25. Over again
26. Failure
27. Wagoner character
28. Hawk's cry

For time 25 min. AP Newsfeatures 6-2

Television

3 & 6:
Quran
Cartoons
Agricultural program-me
Lucy show
News in Arabic
13:
Sports programme
Arabic series

9:15 Reportage
Channel 6:
7:30 News in Hebrew
7:45 Varieties
8:30 Doctor at large
9:00 Science report
9:10 First Churchills
10:00 News in English
10:15 Matt Helm (On both channels)

Amman Airport

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Aqaba
Beirut (MEA)
Damascus
Cairo
Kuwait (KAC)
Kuwait
Vienna, Copenhagen
Kuwait
London
Bucharest (Tarom)
Kuwait
Athens, Amsterdam (KLM)
Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat
Dhahran
Cairo (EA)

21.00 Kuwait
Arrival:
9.20 Muscat, Doha
9.30 Aqaba
9.45 Karachi, Abu Dhabi
10.00 Jeddah
10.30 Kuwait (KAC)
12.00 Bucharest (Tarom)
13.00 Damascus
14.35 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GA)
17.10 Kuwait
17.30 Cairo
18.55 Amsterdam, Brussels, Geneva
19.30 Cairo (EA)
19.45 Beirut (MEA)
20.50 London (BA)

Radio

(On 856 KHZ):
7.00 Breakfast show
7.30 News Bulletin
7.45 News Reports
8.00 Sign off
12.00 Pop session (part I)
13.00 News Summary
13.03 Pop session (part II)
14.00 News Bulletin
14.10 Radio magazine
14.30 Melody time
15.00 Concert hour
16.00 Old favourites
16.30 Easy listening
17.00 Pop session (part III)
18.00 News Summary
18.05 Listener's choice
18.30 Science report
18.45 Songs
19.00 News Bulletin
19.10 News reports
19.30 Sign off

Market Prices

Apples (golden): 80—120
Apples (starken): 120—160
Apples (double red): 120—200
Bananas: 140—180
Bell pepper: 80—120
Cauliflower: 100—130
Carrots (yellow): 50—70
Cucumber (small): 80—100
Cucumber (large): 40—60
Cherry (large): 120—160
Cherry (Red): 120—180
Eggplant (small): 80—110
Eggplant (large): 100—140
Grape leaves: 120—160
Green beans: 90—140
Garlic (dry): 100—150
Garlic (green): 100—150
Hot Pepper: 100—120
Lemon: 60—90
Horse beans: 40—60
Marrow (regular): 50—70
Marrow (small): 80—100
Orange: 120—170
Onions (local): 50—80
Onions (imported): 50—80
Okra: 350—440
Potatoes (local): 80—110

Peaches: 200—150
Spinach: 30—50
Tangerines: 120—170
Tomatoes: 50—80
Wild cucumbers: 40—60

Tonight's Emergencies

Doctors:
Dr. Saeed Rasheed: (31808)
Dr. Muneer Salek: (51217)
Pharmacies:
Kamel: (36295)
Nihad: (30844)
Jabal Hashimi: (51822)
Taxis:
Neel: (44433)
Khayyam: (41541)
Hamra: (44833)

SWAPO intensifies independence drive

WALVIS BAY, S. W. Africa, June 1 (AFP) — SWAPO, the South-West Africa (Namibia) People's Organisation, announced today it planned to step up its campaign to win independence for the South African-ruled territory.

A statement issued by the national executive at its conference here said SWAPO would use only "peaceful means" but added "the time has come to stop merely talking about oppression."

SWAPO called on South Africa to hold a general election "to test our support which is from 60 to 70 per cent of the people," said the statement.

The Deputy Secretary-General of SWAPO's internal wing, Ali Kaakunga commenting on the guerrilla war in northern Namibia, said he could not condemn it as "we have no knowledge of what is going on there or who is to blame."

Syrian force moves into Lebanon

(Continued from page 1)
from his unit "to fetch some things" filled in a few details of the operation to Reuter correspondent Tim Pearce.

"Our troops and tanks came into Lebanon early this morning," he said, pounding the car seat to emphasise the point.

"Now they are spreading out and will go to Baalbek, Zahle and Beirut."

He made it clear that Syria was making a determined effort to stop the civil strife that has wracked Lebanon for over a year, and said that if his troops had to fight, they would.

Beirut Radio, which is sympa-

He said the internal wing had no contact with groups engaging South African troops in the north. But he added: "The successful struggles in Mozambique, Angola and Guinea Bissau have given blacks heart in this territory."

Many whites were already fleeing Namibia because they felt they would not be safe once independence was achieved, but whites could join SWAPO, Mr. Kaakunga said. "We will not replace one evil with another," he added. He said potential SWAPO members would be closely screened to make sure agents of the South African security police did not join.

Mr. Kaakunga confirmed that SWAPO would not take part in the current constitutional conference on Namibia's future unless this was supervised by the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity.

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IMF auctions 700,000 ounces of gold today

WASHINGTON, June 1 (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is to auction 700,000 ounces of gold tomorrow and profits, expected to be about 62.4 million dollars will finance a trust fund to aid the poorest of the developing nations.

It is the first of several sales and the IMF will sell in all 25 million ounces of gold for the trust fund over the next four years.

The IMF has already received many postal bids for the gold and more are expected before the deadline expires at 1500 GMT tomorrow.

The terms of the offering are such that few of the bids are likely to have come from small investors or bargain hunters. The minimum bid the IMF will consider is for 2,000 ounces and each bid must be accompanied by a deposit of 50,000 dollars.

The IMF's executive board voted not to reveal either the names of the bidders or the winners. Managing director Johannes Witteveen said this was to avoid embarrassing potential bidders.

Kosygin in Syria

(Continued from page 1)
On Lebanon, it said Iraq and the Soviet Union would carry on with efforts to stop the bloodshed as soon as possible, and to protect Lebanon's unity, independence and sovereignty.

On the Middle East situation, the Soviet and Iraqi sides both said that there would be no peace without restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians. Both countries backed the idea of making the Indian Ocean a peace zone free of foreign military bases.

Little progress at SALT

(Continued from page 1)
representatives of the other country.

The treaty is a companion to an accord signed in July 1974 limiting underground nuclear weapon tests to 150 kilotons.

Senior U.S. officials said the treaty in itself had no special implication for the SALT negotiations, but it demonstrated a willingness for the first time to work out fairly extensive cooperative arrangement which if successful could be extended to future SALT negotiations.



WANTED — These are a police sketch (left) of the man with a German accent who was killed in the Tel Aviv airport blast when his suitcase exploded, and a photo of the man with a Kuwaiti passport wanted in connection with the incident. (AP wirephoto).

Oil minister says inflation may force price rise

TOKYO, June 1, (R) — Libyan the severity of inflation, officials here said.

They gave no elaboration. The Libyan minister also said OPEC would hold its next meeting in December as scheduled, the Japanese officials added.

Some OPEC countries had pressed in Bali for an earlier meeting to seek unanimity on oil prices.

Mr. Mabrouk sought increased bilateral economic cooperation at a meeting with Japan's Resources and Energy Agency Director-General, Mr. Minoru Masuda, the government officials said.

Mr. Masuda explained the present and future outlook of Japan's energy situation as well as energy development, atomic energy and pollution issues, they said.

Mr. Mabrouk told Mr. Komoto today it might be unavoidable for the OPEC countries to raise prices to some extent because of

PFLP gives information on Tel Aviv bomb man

BEIRUT, June 1, (R) — A Palestinian commando organisation last night issued the photograph of a youth with long hair who it said, caused last week's bomb explosion at Tel Aviv airport.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), which has already claimed responsibility for the blast, named the youth as "Nasr," and said he had carried out other operations inside and outside Israel.

He joined the PFLP in 1974 and fought in several battles in Lebanon for the commando movement and the Lebanese leftwing, the front said.

In the blast last Tuesday, a bag carried by a young man flying in from Vienna blew up as he opened it for inspection, killing him and an Israeli security guard. Reports from Tel Aviv said he had a passport in the name of Hugo Muller.

West German police meanwhile think that the man killed may have been a German.

Police issued a statement today saying they believe he may have lived and worked either in the Cologne or Frankfurt area, because witnesses said he spoke in a German dialect when buying a ticket in Vienna to fly to Tel Aviv.

Police in Austria, Holland and Israel already are puzzling over the man's identity. He travelled under a false identity on a Dutch passport for the flight.

In a related development Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky today promised together security precautions to counter threats against planes flying to Israel.

After the airport explosion Tuesday the PFLP promised further attacks on the Vienna-Tel Aviv air route, the main channel for emigrating East European Jews.

Dr. Kreisky said new precautions would be taken, but he vowed that even the tightest security could give no absolute guarantee against guerrilla action.

In a television interview Monday night, Dr. Kreisky said that despite the PFLP threat, Austria would continue to provide transit facilities for Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union.

He rejected Israeli press attacks on Austria's security system and said that ill-informed criticism could jeopardise "things which Austria does at its own risk," a reference to the transit facilities.

In Tel Aviv, the man killed by the bomb has been identified as Ben-Haim, 25, of Wuppertal, West Germany, the Israeli police announced tonight.

The identification was made by the West German Federal Bureau of Investigation from fingerprints made by the Israeli police in West Germany, police said.

Hausmann was wanted for questioning about a 1972 robbery the



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LONDON MARKET REPORT

The market closed above the day's lows after an easier session Tuesday with sentiment affected by the weakness of sterling, dealers said.

Government stocks closed with net falls of around 1/8 point among shorts and 1/4 point in long-dated loans, with some buying interest reported on yield considerations.

Leading Industrials recorded net falls in the 3p to 5p range, with shares marked down rather than heavily sold. At 15:00 hrs, the F.T. index was down 6.9 at 373.5.

Oils were higher at the close, with gains of 2p to 5p, while banks showed net falls of around 5p.

Mining shares continued firm with the higher gold bullion price, and Australians also firmed.

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